**WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**
**IMPACT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETNG**
**10-24-02 at the Offices of the RI Economic Policy Council**

**Next meeting of subcommittee: December 3, 2002 at 3:30 (same place)**

**Present**

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| Beth Collins | RI Economic Policy Council |
| Connie McGreavy | Water Resource Board |
| Judith Benedict | |
| Katherine Wallace | Brown University |
| Kathy Crowley | Water Resource Board |
| Richard Blodgett | Providence Water Supply Board |
| Russ Chateneauf | RI Dept. of Env. Mgt-Wetlands |
| Sally Walkerman | RI Economic Policy Council |
| Tim Tyrrell | URI, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics |

**Not Present**

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| Christine Lipsky | RI Dept. of Env. Mgt-F&W |
| Kelly Woodward | Aquidneck Island Planning Com |
| Scott Millar | RI Dept. of Env. Mgt.-Sustainable Watersheds |
| Shiela Brush | Grow Smart Rhode Island |

**What do we want to accomplish?**

What are the social, economic, and environmental impacts of not addressing water issues in Rhode Island?

Other committees in the Water Allocation Project are expected so propose actions regarding a water registration system, water allocation, and conservation pricing. How do the impacts of these proposals differ from no action?

**What do we know? What questions do we have?**

Potential impacts are endless. How do we narrow our scope so we are able to inform the Water Allocation Project in a meaningful way? This job of narrowing the scope is up to the committee.

We don't have a good handle on water use or water supply over time. It is not clear whether increasing water use is the driving issue. Changes in water demand in individual basins are an issue. Changes in water supply may be just as critical as changes in water use.

Rhode Island has long focused on water quality issues, but more recently water quantity is an issue.

Water use is a chaotic system based mostly on a first come, first serve principle. Choices about who gets water are not systematically informed by the financial and economic benefits of different uses.

There is a small vs. large project bias in water supply decisions. Many small projects go forward, yet the cumulative impacts of these projects can be just as great or greater than the large projects that are stopped.

Residential development issues will be important. How are water consumption issues integrated into planning for residential development? Do different residential patterns result in different average use? How do different residential patterns impact regional water supply?

Lets look at land use changes of 25 years (planning documents 147 and 149), predict what impacts of water use will be in these basins, will we end up with enough clean water, if current plans are implemented.

The Blackstone and Wood Pawcatuck scenarios give us a lot of information to start with including future land use maps and buildout analysis. Starting with these scenarios will help us move forward.

The Water Resource Board and USGS are building a NE water-use database system for Rhode Island.

80% of water use is surface water.

90% of population is served by large municipal water systems, but there are data gaps with some giant facilities on self-supply. There is a need to get a handle on self-supplied commercial users.

Inter-basin transfer is a big environmental issue. Water scarcity is causing Ocean State Power to truck water from another basin. Inter-basin transfer is often a way to alleviate local water scarcity.

The Governor's Executive Order defines half-mile radius Growth Centers. How can the Growth Centers idea help implement better water resource planning?

Impacts on watershed function (water supply) may lead us to recommend that towns re-evaluate zoning with regard to water. There is no regulatory process in place to make sure there is enough water for what is built.

Recreation is a high priority use.

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The website for more information about the Water Allocation Project: www.wrb.state.ri.us